

Application No.: 09/846,896

Docket No.: 2006579-0127

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 were presented for examination. The Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 1-48 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Burd et al. (United States Patent No. 6,792,607, hereafter "Burd"), in view of Marcos et al. (United States Patent No. 6,429,880, hereafter "Marcos"), and further in view of Turner et al. (United States Patent Publication No. U.S. 2001/0018648, hereafter "Turner"). The Examiner objected to claims 2, 12-16, 20-21, 25, 35-39, and 43-44 as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 24, 25, 36, and 37 have been amended. Claims 12 and 35 have been canceled. No claims have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1 and 24 are independent.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 6-11, 17-18, 22-24, 29-34, 40-41, and 45-48 were rejected as obvious over Burd in view of Marcos. Claims 3-5, 19, 26-28, and 42 were rejected as unpatentable over Burd in view of Marcos in view of Turner. To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest each and every claim limitation.

Argument

Independent claims 1 and 24 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 12. Applicants respectfully submit that claims are now in condition for allowance.

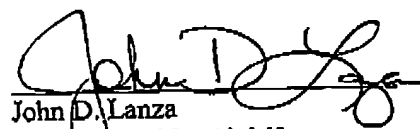
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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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